MARVEL

25

LGY#919

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

...Whatever happened to Mary Jane?

WELLS
ANDREWS
ROMITA JR.
HANNA
MENYZ
AND MORE!

PETER PARKER HAS THE PROPORTIONAL SPEED, STRENGTH, AND AGILITY OF A ***SPIDER***, ADHESIVE FINGERTIPS AND TOES, AND THE UNIQUE PRECOGNITIVE AWARENESS OF DANGER CALLED ***"SPIDER-SENSE"!*** AFTER THE TRAGIC DEATH OF HIS UNCLE BEN, PETER PARKER UNDERSTOOD THAT WITH GREAT POWER THERE MUST ALSO COME GREAT RESPONSIBILITY. HE BECAME THE CRIMEFIGHTING SUPER HERO CALLED...

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

A mad mathematician named BENJAMIN RABIN trapped Peter and Mary Jane in an alternate dimension. When MJ chose to save Peter rather than herself, Peter knew time was of the essence to save her. Unable to take the time to explain himself, Spider-Man was forced to work with the one person who would help him, no questions asked--Norman Osborn. With no time to build their technology from the ground up, Spider-Man chose to steal important and dangerous parts from the likes of the Fantastic Four and Moon Girl. For a brief moment, the ends seemed to justify the means when Peter arrived just in the nick of time to save MJ. But Peter learned that time moved much more rapidly in this dimension and in the untold years Peter was gone, MJ had made a family with the mysterious Paul.

This is her story.

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ENOUGH!

MJ! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

SORRY, TIGER.

HE CAN'T HAVE YOU.

MJ!

BEEP BEEP

NO!

KAK-

NOOO!

I'M SORRY, PETER.

...GODS DON'T DIE GENTLE.

GET DOWN!

NNNF!

VVVSssssZZzzzzzz

ZWIP

PETER...

HE'S GONE.

YOU DID THE RIGHT THING.

WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

ELSEWHERE.

GYARRRGHH!

WAYEP IS DEAD!

HIS... HIS ESSENCE HAUNTS THE DARK ROAD...

QUICKLY... MAY I BE REBORN THE VESSEL OF DEATH!

MAY I BIND WAYEP'S SACRIFICE TO ME.

MAY THE SCARLET WOMAN ACCEPT HER CHAINS...

...AND MAY HER DEATH MAKE ME A GOD!

ONE DAY LATER.

WHAT DID I TELL YOU? WE'RE MOVING.

I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE.

PETER'S COMING BACK.

THERE'S AN EIGHT-FOOT HOLE IN THE ROOF AND THE EMISSARY KNOWS WE'RE HERE!

PETER IS *GONE!* IF YOU WANT TO SURVIVE, YOU HAVE TO--

SHUT UP!

THPK

SHUT UP.

YOU DON'T KNOW PETER. HE'S COMING BACK FOR ME. YOU CAN LEAVE IF YOU WANT TO. *I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE.*

DON'T TOUCH ME AGAIN.

I'LL GRAB SOME MORTAR GLYPHS.

I HAVE TO PATCH THAT HOLE.

ONE MONTH LATER.

--JUST A FEW *GLYPHOIDS* TRYING THE PERIMETER FENCE.

I RAN THEM OFF.

COPY THAT.

THANK YOU.

WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON?

YOU'VE SEEN WHAT *SYMBOLS* CAN DO IN THIS WORLD. I'M BUILDING A DEVICE TO RANDOMLY *COMBINE* THEM.

I COULD STUMBLE UPON A COMBINATION THAT UNLEASHES AN *INCREDIBLE* AMOUNT OF POWER.

THE *JACKPOT.*

WHAT?

IT'S LIKE A SLOT MACHINE. THAT SYMBOL COULD ALMOST BE A SEVEN.

MADE ME THINK OF...

...HITTING THE JACKPOT.

MARY JANE?

Hmmm...

THREE MONTHS LATER.

YOU ARE THE SCARLET WOMAN! DO NOT DENY YOUR ROLE!

I WILL RETURN WHEN YOU ACCEPT YOUR BINDINGS!

HE GET YOU?

YEAH. SHOULDER. NOT TOO DEEP.

YOU?

LEG. SAME.

MARY JANE...

HE KNOWS WE'RE ALIVE. KNOWS WE KILLED HIS GOD. KNOWS WHERE WE LIVE.

YOU'RE RIGHT.

WE CAN'T STAY HERE.

ONE WEEK LATER.

WHAT'S THE HOLD UP, TIGER?

THREE MONTHS LATER.

--THESE ARE CANNED VEGETABLES. BEANS. WHAT DO YOU GOT?

BABY FOOD.

CRASH

DON'T MOVE!

DO YOU KNOW THE SCRIBBLE MAN?

ONE WEEK LATER.

DON'T TOUCH ME! HE'S COMING!

YOU'RE SAFE, OWEN! I'VE GOT YOU!

DON'T TOUCH ME, OR HE'LL GET YOU TOO!

BONK

AAAH!

OW OW BA BA.

DON'T TOUCH ME. DON'T TOUCH ME. DON'T TOUCH ME.

YOU GET 'EM DOWN?

THEY'RE DOWN. BUT I DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH IT.

THEY'VE SEEN THINGS. BOTH OF THEM.

NEW LAB DESIGN

FIGURE THEY HAVE. I'M SURE THEIR PARENTS DIDN'T JUST WALK OFF.

NOPE. THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT THEY RAN INTO OUT HERE.

MARY JANE...OUR PLAN ISN'T SET UP TO CARE FOR TWO CHILDREN. IT MAKES EVERYTHING HARDER. HIDING. FOOD.

WE HAVE TO BE REALISTIC--

I'M NOT LEAVING THEM, PAUL.

IF THEY'RE TOO MUCH TROUBLE FOR YOU, YOU CAN GO.

WH-WHAT?
I WASN'T SAYING THAT.
I W-WOULD *NEVER* SAY THAT.
I KNOW.
I KNOW YOU WOULDN'T.
OH. OKAY.
GOOD, THEN.

ONE MONTH LATER.

OWEN? CAN YOU EAT SOME FOOD FOR ME, PLEASE?

YOU HEAR ME, BUDDY?

THE SCRIBBLE MAN DOESN'T COME ANYMORE.

IS THAT BECAUSE OF YOU?

I...

YES. OF COURSE. I WON'T LET ANYONE HURT YOU.

YOU CAN HUG ME SOMETIMES IF YOU WANT.

THREE MONTHS LATER.

I KNOW IT'S CRAZY, BUT USING THE SYMBOLS OF LUCK AND CHANCE YOU SUGGESTED MADE ALL THE DIFFERENCE...

YOU'RE RIGHT, I MAY HAVE HIT THE JACKPOT.

HA. I WOULDN'T BE SO SURE ABOUT THAT. YOU GONNA FIRE IT UP?

YEP. LET ME ADJUST THE WRIST CONTROL--

OOP!

CAREFUL!

MARY JANE, I...

DAYS.

MONTHS.

I SHOULD HAVE TOLD YOU...

WINTERS.

LET ME DO IT!

NO, ME!

ROMY STEPHANIE WATSON! YOU KNOW WHAT WE SAY ABOUT TAKING TURNS.

ANYONE WANT *MY* TURN WITH THIS POTATO?

SUMMERS.

4

4

Hee hee hee!
TH-THE A-APPLE FEEEELL F-FROM THE TUH-ER--
TREE.

HA HA HA!
FASTER, MOMMY!
GET BACK HERE! RAAARRRR!
EEEEEEEEEEE!

I'LL CHECK ON THE PASTA.

YOU HEAR THAT? IT'S TIME TO EAT!

I DON'T WANNA! Hee Hee!

OWEN? YOU COMING TO DINNER?

WHAT DOES THE SCRIBBLE MAN WANT?

HUH? YOU HAVEN'T TALKED ABOUT HIM IN A LONG TIME.

ARE YOU SCARED OF HIM AGAIN?

YEAH.

I DON'T LIKE HOW HE'S LOOKING AT ME.

WHAT?

THE SUN-BLOOD RETURNS FOR YOU.

BUT IT IS TOO LATE.

THE SCARLET WOMAN IS BOUND.

SHE WILL FEED THE BLADE OF DECAY.

GET THE KIDS TO THE SAFE ROOM!

ᛟ

TSSSSS!

STAY HERE!

YOU SENT THE SUN-BLOOD AWAY... BUT HIS IMPORTANCE DIED WITH WAYEP. THERE IS ONLY YOU, SCARLET WOMAN.

YOU ARE THE *FINAL SACRIFICE!*

HUH?

GET AWAY FROM HER!

YOU DEFILE MY CEREMONY!

THOK

OH... HEE HEE HEE... OH DEAR.

CAREFUL, OLD FRIEND.

--GAK...

I'VE GOT BAD NEWS FOR YOU, JERK.

YOU'RE ABOUT TO HIT THE JACKPOT.

SHHZZARRKKK

HUH?

FIZZLE

DID YOU BUILD THAT?

YOU MUST BE TERRIBLE AT MATH.

NO...

...IT'S JUST GETTING WARMED UP.

WHOA.

DING DING DING

ALL RIGHT, THEN.

GLOOOOOB

THE #$%& IS THIS?

COTTON CANDY?

IS IT?

HURK.

YOUR LIFE OFFENDS ME...

...AS IT DENIES ME *GODHOOD!*

CRACK!
HNNNG!
COTTON CANDY?!
...IT'S BASED ON CHANCE. TRADE-OFFS FOR EVERYTHING...
THEN I'LL TRY AGAIN--
WAIT! I DIDN'T TELL YOU...IF YOU GET THREE SKULLS--
QUIET NOW...
...LET ME MAKE YOUR DEATH A SACRED THING.
I WILL PLUNGE THE BLADE OF DECAY INTO YOUR HEART.
AND I WILL BECOME WAYEP.
SHHHHHHH
TRY IT, MOTHER--

"AND THEN THERE WAS A BRIGHT LIGHT...

ZAP!

"...AND SUDDENLY YOU WERE THERE.

SUN-BLOOD.

PETER?

GET AWAY FROM HER!

GYAAAHHH!

"YOU WERE SAVING ME, JUST LIKE YOU USED TO. LIKE NO TIME HAD PASSED.

YOU'VE BEEN GONE TOO LONG, SUN-BLOOD.

"BUT IT HAD.

YOU CAN NO LONGER STAND AGAINST ME.

"RABIN HAD BECOME TOO STRONG.

YOU CAN ONLY SPEND YOUR LAST MOMENTS WITNESSING THE DEATH OF YOUR...

...YOUR...

WHAT IS THIS? A STILL, SMALL VOICE...

"BUT SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR ARRIVAL GAVE HIM PAUSE...

YEsSs...I UNDERSTAND.

"...AND GAVE PAUL THE TIME HE NEEDED...

Hurk!

SO BE IT.

"...TO END OUR NIGHTMARE.

JUST AS MY GOD... I AM NOW DEAD...

WORKS FOR ME.

THUNK

PETER, IS THAT REALLY YOU?!

MARY JANE!

THE KIDS...

YOU'RE OKAY.

PETER...

"I CAN'T EXPLAIN HOW GOOD IT WAS TO SEE YOU.

YOU'RE OKAY, RIGHT?!

YES, HOW DID YOU--?

COME HERE...

"AND HOW...

WAIT...

MJ?

YOU'VE... YOU'VE BEEN GONE A LONG TIME...

A LOT HAS CHANGED.

WE SHOULD KEEP MOVING.

THE KIDS ARE SCARED.

WH- WHO ARE THEY?

"...YOU'D MISSED SO MUCH.

THEY'RE MY FAMILY.

"YOU BROUGHT US ALL HOME. SAVED US. BUT...WELL..."

...I GUESS YOU KNOW THE REST.

HOW LONG WAS I GONE?

YEARS. ALMOST FOUR.

I THOUGHT I'D NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN, PETER.

AND YOU AND PAUL...?

YES.

ME AND PAUL. AND ROMY AND OWEN.

I NEVER STOPPED. THE SECOND I CAME BACK. I NEVER STOPPED UNTIL--

I KNOW, PETER.

THANK YOU.

WE TOOK A WALK, A MONTH AGO. WE WERE GOING TO MOVE IN TOGETHER. YOU ASKED ME. AND I SAID I WAS A MESS, AND YOU... YOU SAID...

"WHEN ARE YOU NOT A MESS?"

I'M SORRY, PETER. I'M NOT LEAVING HIM.

MAIN ENTRANCE

HIS LIVER GOT NICKED, BUT HE SHOULD MAKE A FULL RECOVERY.

THANK YOU, DOCTOR.

WE DO NEED A LITTLE HELP I.D.ING HIM. WE CAN'T FIND ANY RECORDS FOR--

MARY JANE?

OH, WOW.

I WAS HOPING YOU COULD CLEAR A FEW THINGS UP.

PETER?

I THINK YOU HAVE SOMETHING THAT BELONGS TO US.

IT LOOKED SOMETHIN' LIKE A *MINIFUSION REACTOR.* RING ANY BELLS?

AND THEN MAYBE YOU CAN GIVE US AN EXPLANATION. I THINK YOU OWE US THAT TOO.

THE REACTOR'S *FRIED.* I USED IT TO BRING MARY JANE BACK.

THAT'S ALL I'M GONNA SAY ABOUT THAT.

WHAT IS UP WITH YOU, MAN?!

JOHNNY...

YOU BREAK INTO OUR PLACE! STEAL OUR STUFF! AND YOU DON'T WANT TO GIVE AN EXPLANATION?!

YOU'D THINK NOW THAT YOUR *GIRLFRIEND'S* BACK YOU'D BE IN A BETTER--

Gurk!

SHUT UP!

GYAHH!

I'VE HAD ENOUGH 'A THIS JERK!

KRUNCH

AARGH!

WHA--?

PETER, PLEASE...

PUT ME DOWN!

WE JUST WANT TO HELP YOU.

I SAID PUT ME--

WOMP

HOW ABOUT WE STOP PUNCHING THINGS BEFORE THEY START PUNCHING BACK?

THAT'S THE THING, SUE. THE DAY I'VE HAD?

I WANT SOMEONE TO HIT ME BACK.

WELL, THEN...

...FLAME ON!

THAT'S ENOUGH.

Hnnf!

LET HIM GO.

I TALKED TO MJ, PARKER.

I UNDERSTAND WHY YOU DID WHAT YOU DID. BUT YOU COULD HAVE DONE IT A WHOLE LOT GENTLER. WE WOULD HAVE *HELPED--*

BUT NOT FAST ENOUGH.

I WASN'T FAST ENOUGH, EITHER.

JUST GO.

PLEASE.

WE'RE LEAVING.

WHAT?! WE'RE JUST GOING TO LET HIM--?

HE WAS IN A BIND. STILL IS.

WE'VE GOTTA TRUST HIM TO SEE HIS WAY OUT OF IT.

HOWEVER LONG IT TAKES.

TO FIND A NEW WAY, ONE MUST GIVE UP THE OLD.

THERE IS A PRICE, OF COURSE.

THE WEIGHT OF WHICH MAY CRUSH YOU.

THERE IS SCREAMING. VIOLENCE.

THE RENDING OF CLOTH AND FLESH.

AND THEN THE SILENCE OF... ACCEPTANCE.

I HAVE TRAVELED THE BLACK ROAD AND RETURNED WITH THIS WISDOM:

IT WAS I WHO FAILED WAYEP.

I WAS THE SYMBOL OF THE CEREMONY'S FAILURE.

TO COMPLETE IT... I HAD TO DIE.

AND NOW THE POWER OF GREAT WAYEP INFUSES ME. BEGGING TO BE A GOD ONCE MORE.

I HAVE ONLY TO CLAIM IT WITH SACRIFICE.

THE CEREMONY MUST BE FINISHED...

THE SCARLET WOMAN MUST DIE!

TO BE CONTINUED!

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

NEXT: ISSUE #26

But before next issue, enjoy this special short story celebrating the first twenty-five issues of this volume of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!

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WE SPENT MORE TIME ON THAT PLANE THAN WE'RE GOING TO SPEND AT YOUR FRIEND'S WEDDING.

STOP COMPLAINING. IT WILL DO YOU SOME GOOD TO GET OUT OF NEW YORK.

1

2

3

Welcome to OMA

"Welcome to Omaha, Spider-Man"

Rainbow Rowell - writer
Álvaro López - artist
Andrew Crossley - color artist
VC's Joe Caramagna - letterer

I GET OUT OF NEW YORK. SOMETIMES I EVEN GO TO SPACE.

YOU'RE WELCOME TO GO TO SPACE RIGHT NOW.

I THOUGHT WE WERE GOING TO A CITY. WHERE'S THE CITY?

I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU'RE BEING SUCH A GRUMP-A-LUMP...

A *GRUMP-A-LUMP*?

SPIDER, YOU *LIKE* WEDDINGS.

ARRIVALS

I LIKE SEEING YOU IN FANCY DRESSES--YOU'RE CONFLATING THINGS.

YOU CRIED WATCHING DEADPOOL'S WEDDING VIDEO.

THAT WAS MY ALLERGY MEDICINE. AND ALL THE CELINE DION.

YOU LIKE WEDDINGS, AND *I* LIKE WEDDING RECEPTIONS--AND WE HAVEN'T SPENT ANY TIME TOGETHER IN WEEKS.

LET'S ENJOY IT, OKAY?

OKAY.

THOSE WEREN'T TEARS--THE AIR HERE IS JUST VERY DRY.

SURE, SURE.

I'M GOING TO POWDER MY NOSE. BETTER PUT ON YOUR DANCING SHOES, JOY BOY.

WHAT IF I LEFT MY DANCING SHOES IN NEW YORK?

Gifts

leave us a message

Janssen Robb Reception

THE GIFTS!

HEY! STOP!

SKRRRR

JUST ONCE, I'D LIKE TO BRING THIS ALONG AND *NOT* NEED IT.

THWIP

THWIP

WHO STEALS FROM A *WEDDING?*

Woodme

SOMEONE WHO ISN'T QUITE SLIMY ENOUGH TO STEAL FROM A FUNERAL?

THWIP

HOW AM I ALREADY IN THE SUBURBS?

UNFORTUNATELY FOR THOSE PUNKS, "FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD SPIDER-MAN" EXTENDS TO ALL NEIGHBORHOODS.

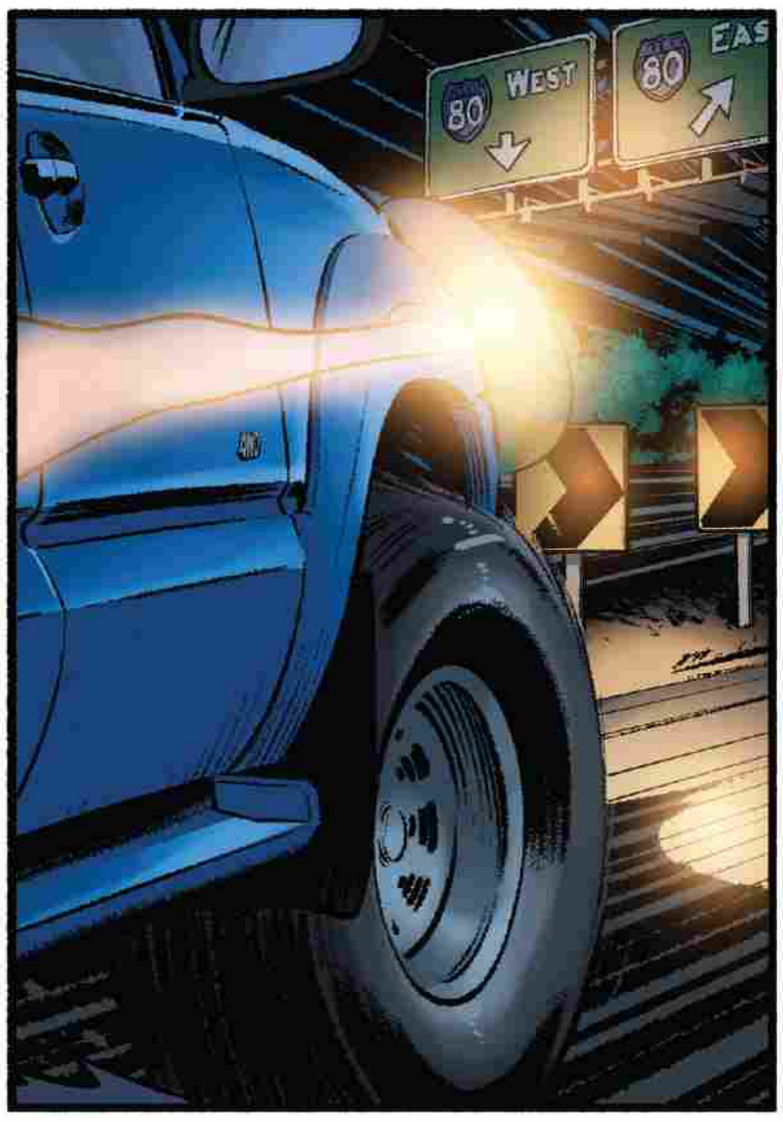
YOU CAN RUN, AND YOU CAN PROBABLY HIDE--BUT I'LL GET THERE *EVENTUALLY.*

LN

Offic
DECO

RGERS

GREAT. A FREEWAY.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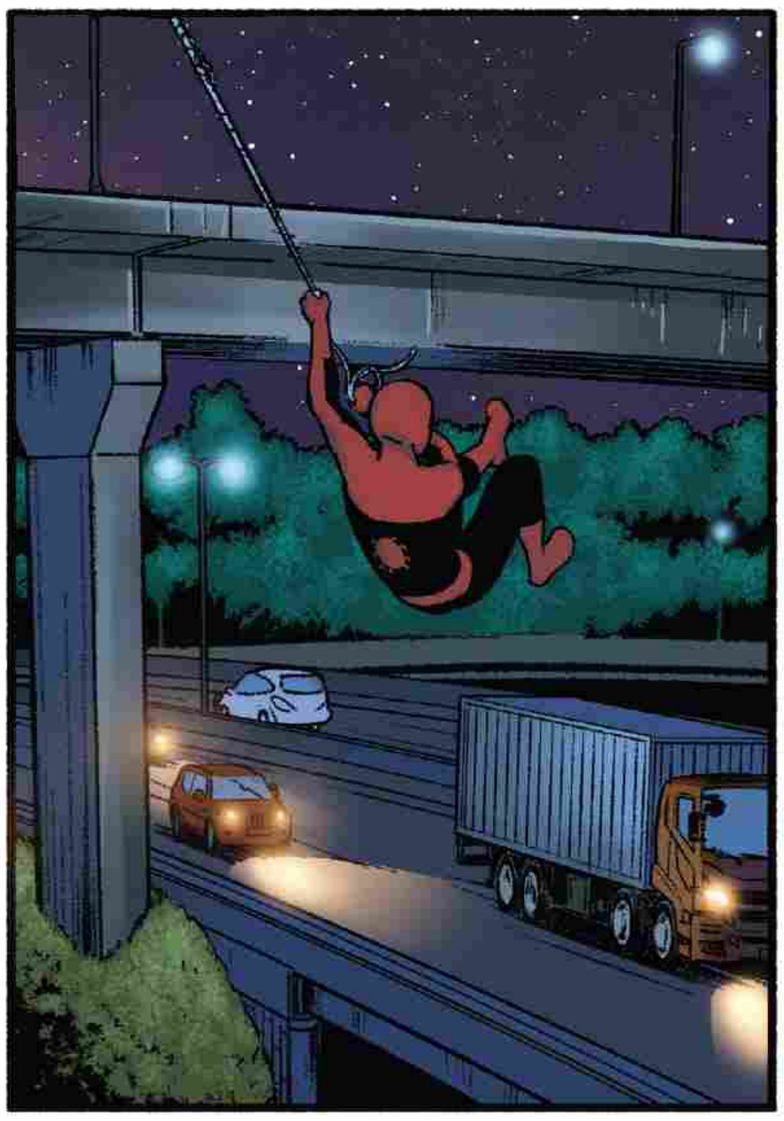
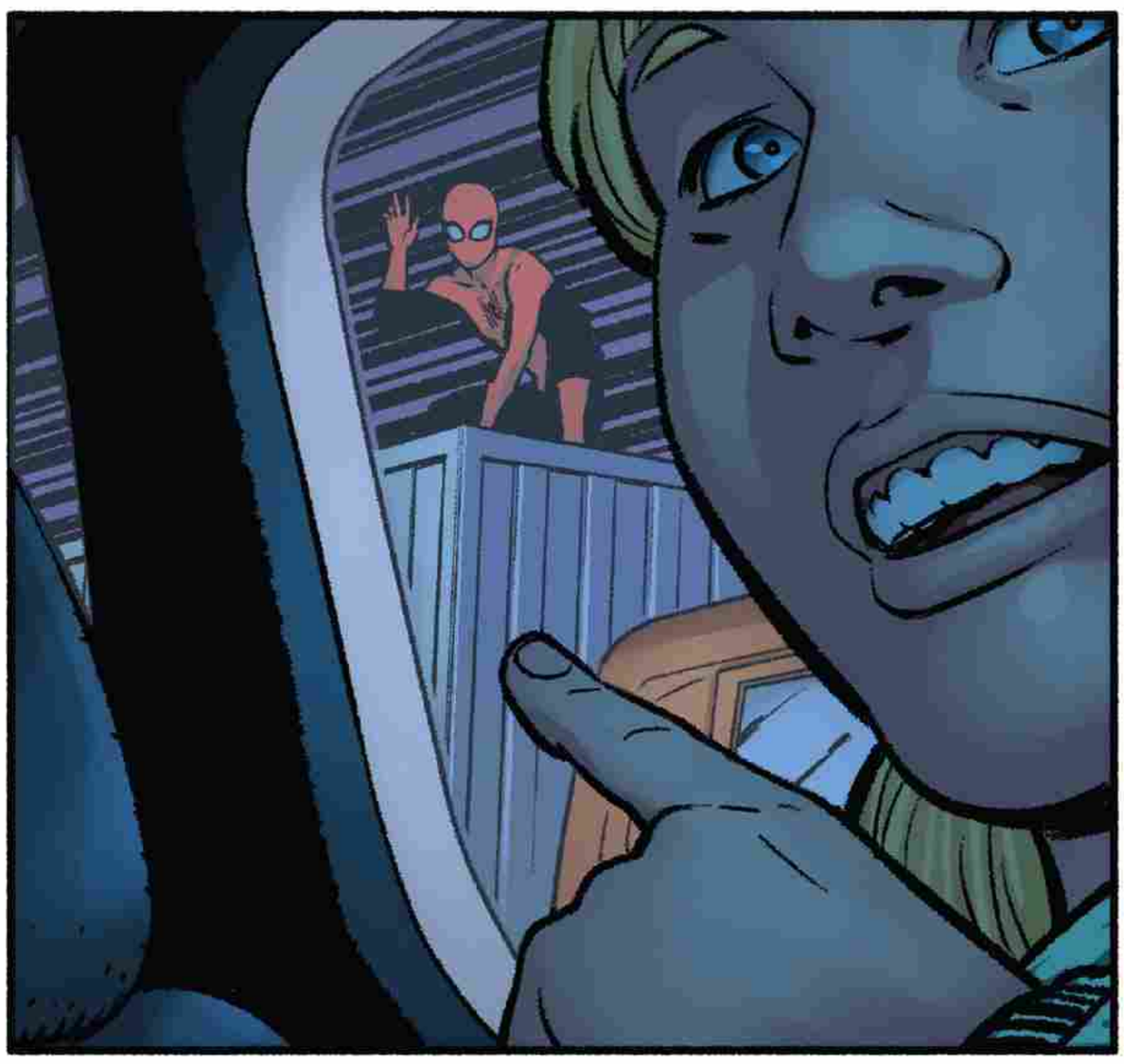
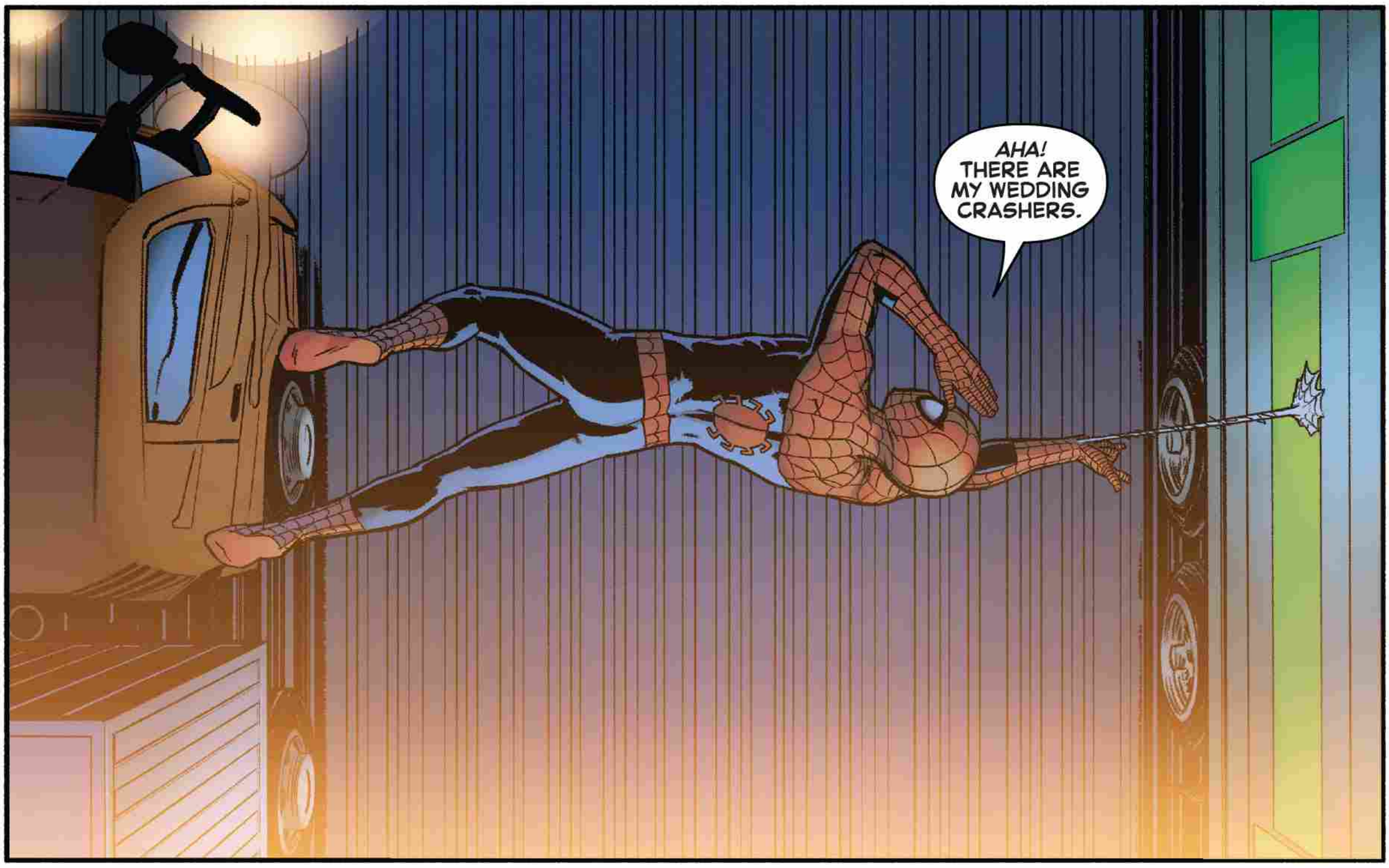


THMP

I WOULDN'T MIND A LITTLE GRIDLOCK JUST NOW, OMAHA...




AHA! THERE ARE MY WEDDING CRASHERS.

THAT'S RIGHT, PAL, OBJECTS IN THE MIRROR MAY BE ABOUT TO KICK YOUR BUTT.

EXIT 49

Des Moines
1/2 MILE
EXIT ONLY

THWAP

GOTCHA!

WAIT, HOW DID WE ALREADY RUN OUT OF CITY?

THIS HIGH-SPEED CHASE HAS ONLY BEEN HIGH-SPEEDING FOR FIVE MINUTES.

WHOA, NELLY!

HERE! TAKE IT, YOU WEIRDO!

THIS ISN'T WORTH A DOZEN TARGET GIFT CARDS.

THAT ISN'T THE SAME GIFT BOX...

A FEW MINUTES LATER, LICKETY-SPLIT...

WEDDING DISASTER AVERTED. THAT'S ANOTHER WIN FOR SPIDER-MAN--

WHO?

--AND ANOTHER LOSS FOR LOSERS.

MAKE THAT *ONE* WEDDING DISASTER AVERTED.

TAXI?

THIS SEEMS LIKE THE RIGHT GENERAL DIRECTION...

SIGH

NEED A RIDE?

THANK HEAVENS!

Gifts

YOU LOOK LIKE YOU JUST TOOK A DIRT BATH...

BELIEVE IT OR NOT, I HAD TO STOP A THIEF.

SHOULD I BE JEALOUS?

NEVER.

THE LENGTHS YOU'LL GO TO NOT DANCE WITH ME...

FELICIA, I'M SORRY. I--LET ME MAKE IT UP TO YOU.

MAYBE NEXT TIME. THAT WAS THE LAST DANCE.

THE NIGHT ISN'T OVER YET.

THIS ISN'T THE CITY THAT NEVER SLEEPS, WEBS. I DON'T EVEN THINK WE CAN GET A HAMBURGER AFTER TEN.

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT STARGAZING?

STARGAZING?

LIKE, *EXTREME* STARGAZING.

ALL RIGHT... I'M IN.

WHAT WAS THE WEDDING SONG?

"MY HEART WILL GO ON." YOU WOULD HAVE CRIED LIKE A BABY.

DANG IT!

ZONE